



Huji managed even a charity licence

Target was to ensure foreign funding for militancy

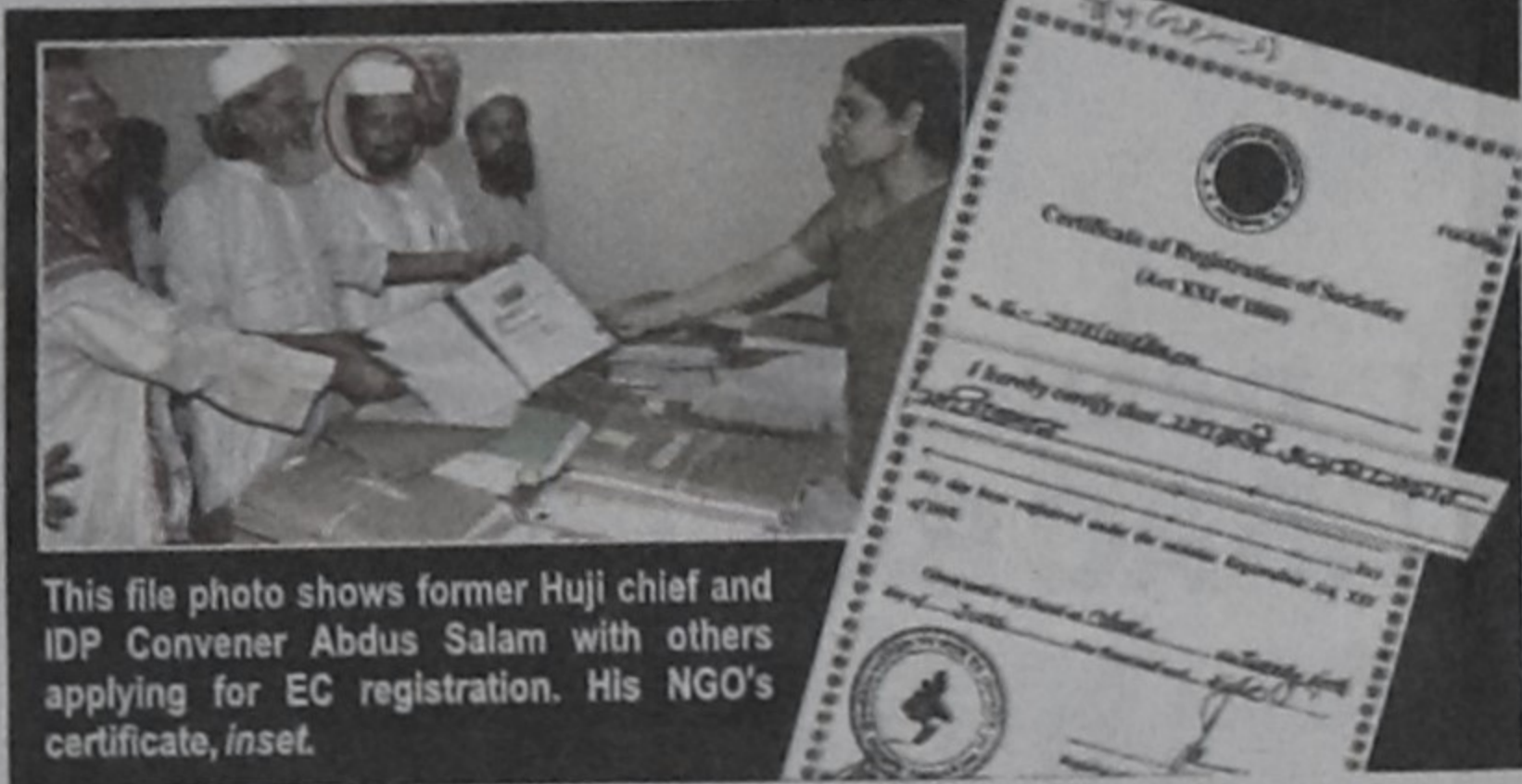
SHARIFUL ISLAM

Banned Islamist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al Islami set up a charity called Faruqi Welfare Foundation last year to use it as a cover for receiving funds from abroad.

The foundation however could not be in operation as it came under intelligence watch a few days after obtaining the certificate from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms (RJSC) on June 29 that year.

Intelligence officials say the militants founded the charity to secure funds through a way around tight measures against terror financing in the post-9/11 years.

They observe the Huji leaders are desperate for funds as they need the money to have a vast network of qawmi



This file photo shows former Huji chief and IDP Convener Abdus Salam with others applying for EC registration. His NGO's certificate, inset.

madrasas and fresh recruits for "jihad".

On paper, Faruqi Welfare Foundation's objectives however are building mosques, madrasas, orphan-

ages and Islamic research centres and facilitating religious education.

Already struggling to start functioning, the foundation suffered another

blow after its Chairman Sheikh Abdus Salam was arrested on March 23 for suspected links to the CPB rally blast that killed five people at Paltan Maidan on January 20, 2001.

Salam, former Huji boss and an Afghan war veteran, is also convenor of Islamic Democratic Party (IDP), a political party floated in May last year on permission from the caretaker administration.

Kazi Azizul Huq, an adviser to IDP, which failed to get registered with the Election Commission, is a vice-chairman of the foundation.

Mohammad Lokman, another member of IDP, is secretary, while Salam's family members make up the rest of the nine-member executive council.

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Clouds over fate of 60,000 rural poor

Govt decides not to extend leases of over 800 water bodies to a Grameen subsidiary

REAZ AHMAD

A government decision of not extending leases of over 800 water bodies to a Grameen Bank subsidiary put livelihoods of over 60,000 rural poor in jeopardy.

Grameen Motsho O Pashusampad Foundation (GMPF), which transformed hundreds of derelict ponds into viable fisheries and created jobs for thousands of rural poor over the last two decades, is now losing grounds because of the government's sudden policy shift on leasing out the previously neglected water bodies.

Grameen Bank took lease of 875 derelict ponds with an area of over 6,500 bighas of land in different upazilas of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Bogra, Sirajganj and Pabna districts through four agreements signed with the government between 1986 and 1988.

By forming the non-profit entity GMPF, Grameen Bank eventually cleaned and developed those ponds and their vicinities, formed groups from among the poor and engaged them in various income generating activities including fish cultivation, dairy, livestock and poultry farming, duckery, cattle fattening, horticulture and homestead gardening.

But two decades down the line as the leases are expiring one after another, the government is denying the Grameen venture any further extension of leases on the pretext that the ministry and departments concerned would take up those water bodies for productive activities through community-based organisations (CBOs).

Under the four agreements, the GMPF took lease of the derelict ponds for four projects -- Joysagar Fish Farm (JFF), Dinajpur Fish Farm (DFF), Nandigram Special Fish Project (NSFP)

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Jobs for 2,000 youths in Barguna, Kurigram

Tk 100 a day during training, Tk 200 when employed proposed for National Service programme

REIAUL KARIM BYRON

The government would provide employment to around 2,000 HSC-passed unemployed youths in two most poverty-ridden districts during the current fiscal year under the newly introduced 'National Service' programme.

Sources in the youth and sports ministry said the youths would receive daily

allowance of Tk 100 during a three-month training period. After completion of the training, the youths may be given Tk 200 per day as salary when they are given job.

According to a government concept paper, a total of 1.39 lakh HSC and equivalent examination passed youths are currently unemployed throughout the country.

Based on the concept paper of the

finance ministry, the youth and sports ministry has been processing a proposal for finalisation of the National Service.

Sources said the proposal would very soon be sent to the cabinet for approval.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith in his budget speech said for the time being the work would start in Barguna and Kurigram districts as a pilot project. He

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BNP presents Tipai paper

Source of info not attributed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Tipaimukh dam and Fulertol barrage will leave the Surma-Kushiyara rivers with virtually no flow and unleash a Farakka-like disaster, said experts at a press meet organised by BNP yesterday.

Leader of the Opposition and BNP chief Khaleda Zia spoke as the chief guest at the press meet held at a city hotel. Different central BNP leaders and activists and a number of

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Drop Tipai dam project

Khaleda asks India; Hasina calls for unity on the issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged India to cancel the Tipaimukh dam project to implement the Indian prime minister's assurance in this regard.

She welcomed Indian PM Manmohan Singh's assuring her Bangladesh counterpart that New Delhi would not take any step regarding the dam that might affect bilateral relations.

She said, "If the project is cancelled, a large section of people in both the countries will be relieved of tension."



Singh's assurance came at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the sidelines of the Nam summit in Egypt Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday urged all to unite in efforts to ensure the country's interests with regard to Tipaimukh dam.

"We want to take a decision on the issue unitedly," she was quoted as saying by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam.

Khaleda, on the other hand, asked the government to play a bold role to protect the national interest, saying, "Don't bow down."

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FREE RIDE... This vegetable vendor brings goods from Mymensingh to Karwan Bazar in Dhaka for sale. The risky ride between two bogies of a train is a must to keep her tiny profit margin.

PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

AL goes to council, ignores charter

SHAKHAWAT LITON and HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The ruling Awami League is violating its own constitution by keeping General Secretary Abdul Jalil aloof from the process of holding its July 24 national council, which has sparked strong criticism among many party leaders.

The AL constitution empowers its general secretary to convene the party's national council upon orders or approval of the party president.

Abdul Jalil was elected the AL general secretary at the party's last council held on December 26, 2002.

However, Jalil was not allowed to discharge his duties regarding the upcoming national council, which has clearly frustrated the veteran politician, and a number of leaders close to Jalil said he might resign as general secretary ahead of the long due event.

A number of senior AL leaders even predict that Jalil might not be allowed to place the report of the general secretary at the council.

The general secretary's report is being prepared at AL President Sheikh Hasina's political office at Dhanmondi, said party leaders involved with the task. It was learnt that AL's Research and Information Secretary Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin is drafting the report.

On July 13, the AL Presidium suddenly decided to hold the party council on July 24 to ratify the provisional changes in its constitution to comply with the electoral laws on party registration as well as elect new office bearers.

Insiders said the party chief is still annoyed with Jalil for the comments he made while in custody during the last caretaker government rule, even saying Sheikh Hasina runs the party in an "autocratic" manner.

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Hasina wants an elected AL presidium

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the party's presidium members would have to be elected at the national council on July 24.

She also said transparent ballot boxes must be used in the polling that day.

Her remarks came at a meeting of the council preparatory committee at her political office in Dhanmondi, said party insiders.

The meeting chaired by her decided to invite all democratic and pro-liberation political parties to the council.

Party sources said the move has created uncertainty about the fate of some senior members of the AL Presidium, the highest policy-making body of the party, who are known as 'reformists'. And it made them apprehensive of their stay in the party.

Although the AL constitution provides that councillors elect party president, presidium members, general secretary, departmental secretaries

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Laskar leader used 6 mobiles for links

Maintained regular contacts in Pakistan, India

KAILASH SARKAR and MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Detained Mufti Obaidullah, one of the most wanted Laskar-e-Taiyeba leaders in India, used six mobile phones and had regular contact with Ameer Reza, chief of Asif Reza Commando Force (ARCF) working with the Pakistan-based Islamist militant outfit, said Detective Branch (DB) of police sources.

Obaidullah on Friday told The Daily Star at the DB headquarters that he knew Ameer Reza quite well.

He had close relations with Ameer's brother Asif Reza, the founder of ARCF, who was killed in an encounter with law enforcers in Gujarat in 2001, said Obaidullah, who is fluent in Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and Persian languages.

DB officials said Obaidullah sent SMS to Ameer Reza and others in Pakistan in Persian language using English alphabets.

Meanwhile, Obaidullah, a madrasa teacher at Shibchar in Madaripur, was placed on a seven-day remand after DB police produced him before the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate's Court with a 10-day remand prayer.

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Prankster fools media

Channels serve false news on cabinet expansion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prankster caught major private television stations off guard yesterday and made them air false news about the expansion of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's cabinet.

All major private TV stations around 11:30am had their news tickers saying something similar to "cabinet expansion today [yesterday]. Oath taking of new cabinet ministers and state ministers at Bangabhaban to be held at 5:30pm." One channel even used this information in its news bulletin.

The tickers stopped

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2 dead, 5 others of a family burnt

Survivors claim husband of a victim sets house on fire; police see electric short circuit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A minor girl and her cousin were killed and five others of the same family critically burnt when a fire broke out in their house in city's Kadamtali area in the early hours yesterday.

Police suspect the fire was caused by an electric short circuit, but family members allege that the husband of Shurovi -- one of the victims -- deliberately set fire to the house.

Nine-year-old Liza Akter and her cousin Rubel Sardar, 22 -- who arrived only the day before on a visit to Dhaka -- died of their injuries shortly after they were rushed to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The others injured are Dadan Sardar, 45, a vegetable vendor, his wife Shahina Begum, 40, and their children Shohag Sardar, 18, Shurovi, 17 and Sagar, 7.

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CONVOCATION
University of Information
Technology & Sciences (UITS)

PHIP

UITS
CONVOCATION
2009

Former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
is due on a private visit to Dhaka organized by UITS

UITS, a concern of PHP Group, will celebrate their Convocation on July 20, 2009 at BCFC. Our Hon'ble President and Chancellor of UITS **Md. Zillur Rahman** will preside over the Convocation Ceremony. **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam** will be the Convocation Speaker on invitation of the Chairman of PHP Group & UITS, **Alhaj Sufi Mohamed Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury**. **Dr. Gowher Rizvi**, the newly appointed Adviser to Prime Minister, will be present as Special Guest.